

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Official Action mailed October 22, 2007. Applicant submits that the Response is fully responsive to the outstanding Official Action for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's election/restriction of claims 41 and 42. Applicant will continue the prosecution of claims 33-40.

In the Official Action, Claims 33-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi, JP 2000-197252 (hereinafter the "252 reference").

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection and traverses with at least the following analysis.

Claim 33 recites, *inter alia*, a second medical device control portion provided in the second medical device, the second medical device control portion generating a second drive signal to drive the second medical device in response to the activation of the second switch, making permission/non-permission determination regarding whether or not the first medical device is to be synchronized with the second medical device in response to the identification information outputted from the first medical device control portion, and outputting the second drive signal to drive the second medical device in response to the activation of the first switch if it is judged that the first medical device is to be synchronized with the second medical device and wherein when the second medical device has already been driven when identification information is received from the first medical device control portion, the second medical device control portion receives no driving information from the first medical device control portion and controls the second medical device to be driven independent of the first medical device.

Similarly, Claim 35 recites, *inter alia*, the first medical device control portion makes permission/non-permission determination regarding whether or not the first medical device is to be synchronized with the second medical device in response to the identification information outputted from the second medical device control portion, and outputs said first drive signal to drive the treatment equipment connected to the first medical device in response to the activation of the second switch if it is judged that the first medical device is to be synchronized with the second medical device and wherein when the first medical device has already been driven when identification information is received from the second medical device control portion, the first medical device control portion receives no driving information from the second medical device control portion and controls the first medical device to be driven independent of the second medical device.

Applicant submits that the '252 reference does not teach or suggest these limitations.

The '252 reference describes that based upon the identification of a probe connected to the first device, the first device (control part 112) sends a signal which performs interlocking/forbidding control to the second device (control part 122). In response the second device (control part 122) will be in the state of carrying out interlocking/forbid control.

Notably, the '252 reference teaches that the first device determines permission/non-permission from the second device and sends a control signal accordingly.

However, in contrast, in the claimed invention, the first device initially transmits the identification information to the second device. The second device determines permission/non-permission for the driving of the attachment, i.e., **second medical device in response to the activation of the second switch**, making **permission/non-permission** determination regarding whether or not the first medical device is to be synchronized with the second medical device **in response to the identification information** outputted from the first medical device control portion. Claim 35 further limits claim 33, i.e., first device performs the **permission/non-permission** determination, based upon identification information from the second device.

While the end result seems to be the same (e.g., sync or forbid), the claimed **control and signal transfer** is different. Additionally, in the '252 reference, the decision process is completely independent of a probe or device that is attached to the second device.

Accordingly, the '252 reference does not anticipate all of the limitations of claims 33 and 35.

In the Official Action, the Examiner noted that the previous 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections are still valid. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection and traverses with at least the following analysis. Neither Whitman nor Applebaum (cited previously) teach or suggest each and every limitation of the claims. Additionally, even if one of ordinary skill in the art would combine Whitman, Applebaum and the '252 reference, all of the features or limitations of the claims are still suggested by the hypothetical combination. Whitman and Applebaum do not cure the above-identified deficiencies.

Moreover, none of the references teach the claimed control when one of the devices is already running, e.g., when the second medical device has **already been driven** when identification information is received from the first medical device control portion, the second medical device control portion **receives no driving information** from the first medical device control portion and **controls the second medical device to be driven independent of the first medical device**.

Whitman, Applebaum and the '252 reference teach transmitting information between the first and second device and control of the devices based upon the information. However, the references do not teach that driving information is not transmitted if the first (or second) device is already running, when the identification information is transmitted.

Specifically, in the claimed invention, the state of driving, e.g., operational state is relevant to the determination of whether to transmit driving information to the other device. The identification information is transmitted separately from driving information. In contrast, in the prior art references, the driving information is transmitted without any determination of the operational state of the receiving device.

Therefore, Claims 33 and 35 are patentable over the cited references; the references whether taken alone or in any combination thereof, fail to teach, suggest or render obvious, each and every limitation of the claims. The claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references.

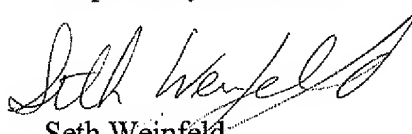
Applicant further submits that claims 34 and 36-40 are patentable over the cited combination based at least upon the above-identified analysis and in view of their dependency, whether directly or indirectly, from independent claim 33.

Additionally, Applicant submits that Fischer (previously cited) fails to cure the above-identified deficiencies.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdrawn the rejections of Claims 33-40 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/103(a).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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